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| **Title: French poetry for beginners** |
| **Topic: How a writer’s choice of words affects the written piece.** |
| **Explicit Instruction/Mini-lesson:**   * **Studying or imitating “experts”** * **Students complete a T-chart to distill the elements of this poem.** * **Students brainstorm as a class how to emulate this poem… in English or in French.** * **Students may choose one of the ideas and then work together in small groups to emulate this poem.** |
| **Status of the Class:**   * **Teacher will direct students to read out loud; as a group. (choral recitation)** * **Students will work together in small groups (4 students per group).** |
| **Guided Practice/Independent Practice/Conferencing:**   * **Students silently read “L’accent grave” by Jacquqes Pervert.** * **Choral recitation: students read aloud in unison, repeating after the teacher.** * **Teacher reviews the present tense forms of the verb “être” (to be).** * **Students fill-in a T-chart. Teacher / Hamlet (student).** * **Students could choose a famous quote to build a poem around, for example:** * An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.  [**Anatole France**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/anatolefra101422.html) * Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.  [**William Butler Yeats**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/w/williambut101244.html) |
| **Sharing/Reflection:**   * **Student groups may share their work with the class.** * **Students may choose to post exceptional work in the classroom or school.** |
| **Connections:**   * **Students may choose other poems to emulate.** * **In English Shel Silverstein for example or other poems by Jacques Prévert.** |
| **Materials:**   * **Promethean board.** * **Copies of the poem “L’Accent Grave” by Jacques Prévert.** * **Students notebooks.** * **Computer access or a list or book of famous quotes.** |

**Forgotten Language by Shel Silverstein**

Once I spoke the language of the flowers,  
Once I understood each word the caterpillar said,  
Once I smiled in secret at the gossip of the starlings,  
And shared a conversation with the housefly  
in my bed.  
Once I heard and answered all the questions  
of the crickets,  
And joined the crying of each falling dying  
flake of snow,  
Once I spoke the language of the flowers. . . .  
How did it go?  
How did it go?

Refrains Enfantins (Children's Rhymes) - from the book Spectacle (1951)  
de Jacques Prévert  
  
  
Des petites filles courent dans les couloirs du théâtre en chantant  
  
Ouh ouh  
  
ouh ouh  
  
C’est la chanson du loup garou  
  
où où  
  
quand quand  
  
comment comment  
  
pourquoi pourquoi  
  
Ouh ouh  
  
ouh ouh  
  
C’est la chanson du loup garou  
  
Il pleut Il pleut  
  
Il fait beau  
  
Il fait du soleil  
  
Il est tôt  
  
Il se fait tard  
  
Il  
  
Il  
  
Il  
  
toujours Il  
  
Toujours Il qui pleut et qui neige  
  
Toujours Il qui fait du soleil  
  
Toujours Il  
  
Pourquoi pas Elle  
  
Jamais Elle  
  
Pourtant Elle aussi  
  
souvent se fait belle !

**Seven Wonders of the World**

I wonder why the sun is hot  
I wonder why it rains a lot

I wonder why the sky is blue  
I wonder why a cow goes moo

I wonder why the clouds skip by  
I wonder why a bird can fly

I wonder will the lesson end  
Before I'm driven round the bend.

-Author Unknown

T-Chart

Teacher Student (Hamlet)

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